



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2019, in the 5th Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Chair Dena Castricone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Dena Castricone, Chair
Mary Bigelow
Charles F. Chiusano
Beth Cook

Jason Farrell, Vice-Chair
Kevin Johnston
Cheryl Lipson

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director
Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Education &
Communications
Mark Wasielewski, Ethics Enforcement Officer
Marc Crayton, Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer
Jennifer Montgomery, Assistant Ethics Enforcement
Officer

Brian O'Dowd, General Counsel
Diane Buxo, Assistant General Counsel
Melissa Hamilton, Temporary Clerk of the
Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the September 19, 2019 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.

2. Chair Castricone noted that Ms. Lipson will serve as the hearing officer for UAPA hearings scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2019. She also noted that Ms. Karen Christiana will join the

Board at its November 21, 2019 meeting. Finally, she informed the Board that former Executive Director Carol Carson will be receiving the 2019 COGEL Award at the Annual COGEL Conference, which will be held in Chicago, December 15-18, 2019.

3. Chair Castricone discussed the need to take another vote regarding the appointment of hearing officers for a hearing on the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Ernestine Y. Weaver, Esq., presented on behalf of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. Although the relevant statute provides for two hearing officers, at last month's meeting, the Board voted to appoint Mr. Farrell, Ms. Cook and Mr. Chiusano as hearing officers. Ms. Cook suggested that the Board vote to appoint two board members as hearing officers and to appoint the third member as an alternate hearing officer.

On the motion of Ms. Bigelow, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to appoint Mr. Farrell and Ms. Cook as hearing officers, and to appoint Mr. Chiusano as an alternate hearing officer, for the Hearing related to the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Ernestine Y. Weaver, Esq.

4. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He focused on upcoming petitions for advisory opinions; the open comment period and planned hearing in early November 2019 for the Petition for Advisory Opinion submitted by Ernestine Y. Weaver, Esq.; the interview process for the Staff Attorney 2 position; and the ongoing overhaul of agency regulations, particularly the assignment of state agency positions that are subject to certain revolving-door restrictions.
5. Director of Education & Communications Nicolescu presented the Media and Training Report and discussed the Judicial Branch's upcoming statewide ethics trainings where she will assist in training the trainers. Mr. Farrell recognized Ms. Nicolescu for doing excellent work as a presenter and public speaker at the University of Hartford.
6. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report, noting that there are four matters scheduled for the October 24, 2019 UAPA hearing, with one or two matters likely to go forward. He noted that, at the November 21, 2019 meeting, the Board will conduct a random selection of ten client lobbyists for audit in 2020. Executive Director Lewandowski noted that during his meeting with Attorney General William Tong and Deputy Attorney General Peggy Chapple, the subject of collecting penalties from Charmaine Thurmand was discussed and they both acknowledged that the Office of the Attorney General staff is working diligently to achieve the goal of collecting the outstanding amounts.
7. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Crayton presented the lobbyist audit report for Fresenius Medical Care, NA, in which there were no findings.

On the motion of Ms. Cook, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0), with Ms. Castricone abstaining, to approve the audit report for Fresenius Medical Care, NA.

8. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his report to the Board. He noted that on October 4, 2019, the new Board Member, Ms. Karen Christiana, visited the OSE to meet the staff and to receive onboarding information. She will be sworn in at the November 21, 2019 meeting. Executive Director Lewandowski updated the Board on personnel changes. He also informed the Board of the agency's efforts to obtain funding for two additional positions. He discussed his continued outreach to legislative leadership to discuss the work of the OSE and its legislative initiatives. Executive Director Lewandowski provided an update on the case management system, COGEL Conference registration, and the upcoming law school seminars at which he will discuss governmental ethics.

On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Lewandowski
Executive Director
Office of State Ethics

Date approved
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)